

3           boost converting and power factor correcting an ac  
4        input signal to a second ac signal; and  
5           changing the second ac signal into a third signal  
6        having a current suitable for welding, cutting or heating.

1           36. (Amended) The method of claim 34 further  
2        including providing control signals to a converter.

1           42. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the  
2        output means includes a pulse width modulator.

1           45. (Amended) A weldment or metal cut formed by a  
2        process which comprises:

3           boost converting and power factor correcting an ac  
4        input signal to a second ac signal; and  
5           changing the second ac signal into a third signal  
6        having a current suitable for welding or cutting.